

The Flock's News

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

February/March 2018

Wilkes-Barre, PA



500 + 1 = HOPE

During the previous year of 2017, the church observed and celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. What became clear in our study of our Lutheran Confessional writings is that what Martin Luther and the other reformers provided to the Christian believer was “hope”. This hope is not something that has to be earned, but rather is given as a free gift through what God has done for us, and continues to offer us. This hope is found in God’s unconditional love for us as experienced in mercy and grace.

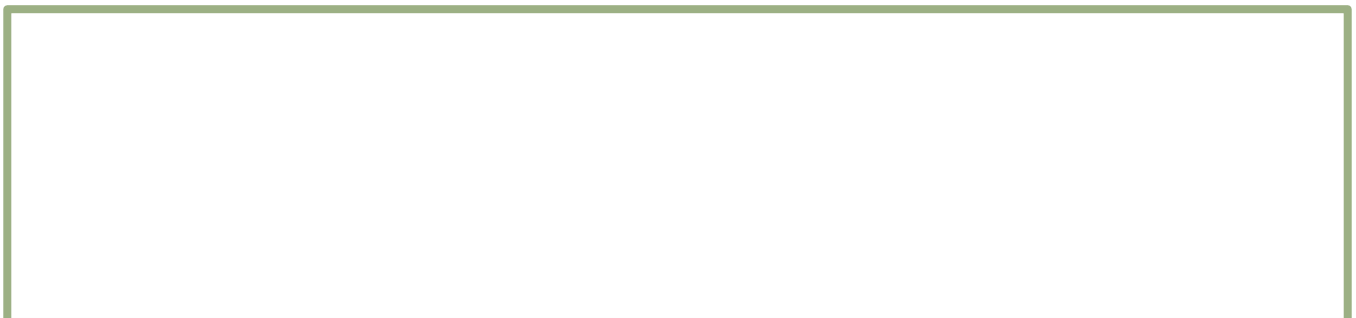
We gather as a worshipping community to hear God’s words of forgiveness and love that binds us together and lifts us up. We celebrate God’s presence among us through the sacraments we share. It is this common bond of faith that is our strength and is the foundation of our hope.

However, Good Shepherd’s mission to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and engage in a vigorous ministry to all people is constantly being threatened by the power of empty promises that exist today in the popular culture around us. Despite this, our congregational leaders have set our course forward with this vision:

For us to build a strong community of faith -
actively sharing God’s abundant grace -
to improve the world in which we live.

We need you. We need your presence in our worshipping community. We need you to share the talents you have with our ministry teams. We need your treasure to ensure that both we and our neighbors have a place where hope is found.

-Pastor Peter Kuritz





A Message from the Treasurer

My job as treasurer has to do with the more mundane tasks of insuring the

bills are paid, the taxes filed and financial reports completed. As with any family, there are many months when I'm forced by cash flow to implement creative money management. And many times the only message you hear from me is about our current financial situation. Today's message is different.

The other day, I was asked by a co-worker why I put myself under the stress of being the treasurer for a non-profit organization. The question forced me to stop and asked myself why am I doing this never ending job and why do I continue to do it after all these years. Here is my answer to me that I am going to share with you.

The church needs a treasurer is NOT my answer. While the church does need a treasurer, it is not my reason for taking on and doing this never ending job. My reason for doing it is I am saved by grace and called to serve.

While I am not certain my gifts are always totally aligned with the responsibilities of being treasurer, I do know many of my gifts support the work I do as treasurer. And it is these gifts which define my service to the church. Service which some days feels like a burden and other days feels uplifting. On any given night you can hear me

cursing and praying almost simultaneously I struggle with the challenges

of being a responsible steward for the church.

One of my favorite Bible passages is Romans 8:38-39. This passage has taken me through many rough days in my life and it always forces me to remember I serve God because God always loves me. I am saved by grace and called to serve. Good Shepherd needs a treasurer. My gifts allow me to serve as treasurer. The ministry and mission of Good Shepherd is supported by my service.

My challenge to anyone reading this article is to identify your unique gifts and then use them to serve God.

I am saved by grace and called to serve.



URGENT: GOD'S SERVANTS UNDER THE AGE OF 60 NEEDED

God has provided each of us with gifts and talents to do his work on Earth. Good Shepherd has a number of opportunities for individuals to serve God by using their individual gifts. The Church's ministry is highly dependent on God's servants. Do you have the needed gifts to serve God in doing these vital services for our mission and ministry?

- A. Strong arms and back as well as the ability to work an unpredictable schedule – if yes, snow removal around the church
- B. Ability to fold and apply labels for a couple of hours every other month – if yes, join the newsletter working group
- C. Great spelling and the willingness to be outside in all kinds of weather – if yes, update the sign in the front of the Good Shepherd Center
- D. Enjoy cleaning and organizing on a quarterly schedule – if yes, clean the kitchen
- E. Friendly and outgoing personally and available Sunday mornings for 8:30 or 11am – if yes, welcome all to Good Shepherd Worship as a Greeter
- F. Enjoy reading aloud and available Sunday mornings for 8:30 or 11am – if yes, be a Lector as part of Sunday Worship
- G. Attention to detail and the willingness to assist worshipers on Sunday mornings at 8:30 or 11am worship – if yes, be an Usher
- H. Understanding numbers, more numbers and more numbers with meetings on the 3rd Monday of the month – if yes, the Finance team is the place for you
- I. Attention to detail, computer skills and be available one day per week to track and record member giving – if yes, the Financial secretary position could use your skills
- J. Young, willing to wear a robe and smile on Sunday mornings at 8:30 or 11am – if yes, be an Acolyte
- K. Attention to detail and the ability to track funds and count money one Sunday a month – if yes, be a Counter

Listen, Listen, Listen God is calling, calling YOU to serve in the mission and ministry at the corner of South and South Main.





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018

Happening Monday, June 18 through Friday, June 22, 2018

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!

THEME: Helping Hands: God's Plan

Our 2018 V.B.S. will be focusing on life in Bible Times and the parable of the Good Samaritan. Just as the Good Samaritan helped the traveler, we will focus on helping others by our actions. V.B.S. is always a highlight ministry at Good Shepherd where children learn about God's boundless love and have a fun time doing it. So, spread the word and invite children from your neighborhood as well as children from Good Shepherd to be transformed to share God's plan with their helpful hands.



Your help is needed and appreciated!

Please plan to join us on Saturday, March 10, 2018, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM, as we continue to get ready for V.B.S. Help is appreciated with crafts, games, music, snacks and crew leaders.

2018 Sponsor Charts

Charts to sponsor weekly altar flowers, worship bulletins, and children's bulletins for 2018 are now posted on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary. Weekly prices are listed. Please write clearly how you would like it printed in the bulletin.

2018 Offering Envelopes

Individual boxes of weekly offering envelopes for 2018 have been assigned and are available for pick up. They are downstairs on top of the glass display case across from the mailboxes. They are arranged alphabetically. If you do not see your name, and / or would like to have a box assigned to you, contact the church office at 570-824-2991.

Secretary Hours

Our new parish secretary, Mollie Rance, will be at the office from Wednesdays to Fridays from 5:30 to 8:00 pm and Saturdays from 10 am to 1pm.

Volunteers from Good Shepherd are needed to provide sandwiches and to help at the mid-week Lenten program at St. Stephens Episcopal Church. The date is Wednesday, March 21st and the time you will be needed is approximately from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm.

Contact Jane Hensley, 570-829-4394, for more information and to volunteer.

Free Tax Preparation Assistance

The AARP Foundation will again provide free tax preparation and e-filing of Federal and State Income Taxes here at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. This service is available to all taxpayers with lower and middle incomes with special attention to those aged 60 and over. Taxpayers are not required to belong to AARP to be eligible for this service. Appointments are available at Good Shepherd on Tuesdays beginning, February 6th and continuing through April 10th. Please call Gail at (570) 901 -1571 between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm Monday through Friday to make an appointment to have your taxes prepared at Good Shepherd. Do not call the church for an appointment.



Volunteer at the Lenten Luncheon on March 21st from 10:30 – 1:30 at St. Stephen's Episcopal



Attention All Cooks!

Please share your favorite recipes for the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Cookbook! Use the form found either at the ushers' table or downstairs on the window ledge behind the glass display case across from the offices, or go online at goodshepherdwb.org under the Member Resources link. Please submit recipes no later than April 8.





Draft of the Social Statement on Women and Justice

The ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ, has made available its draft for discussion and response throughout our church. It represents the task force's initial attempt to formulate a social statement, and it is intended to encourage deliberation on what our church should say about the pressing issues of sexism and patriarchy. The draft is available for download from ELCA.org/womenandjustice Comments and feedback can be sent to bit.ly/womenandjusticedraft Deadline is September 30, 2018.



FEED THE HUNGRY

Volunteers are needed to help distribute food to families coming to the CEO Food Pantry here at Good Shepherd on Wednesdays 1 – 4 pm, and / or Fridays 9 am – Noon. Contact Ellen if interested at 570-262-8793.



Chrismon Workshop: A time of fellowship to repair our broken Christmas tree decorations will be held on Saturday, February 17, from 10 am to noon at the Good Shepherd Center. All are welcome.

The words "Thank You" are written in a large, elegant, black cursive script. The letters are fluid and interconnected, with a prominent loop at the end of the word "You".

**Dear Pastor Janell, Pastor Peter, Peg, Emma, Jane,
and all our sisters and brothers in Christ at Good Shepherd Lutheran
Church**

It has now been almost a year since the passing of our dear mother, Inger Miller. We want to express a special thank you to all who helped make her memorial service beautiful. But even beyond that, thank you to you all for being her church community and for your prayers and encouragement to her. Inger enjoyed the Women's Bible Study / lunch group when she was still able to get out. And the opportunity to serve in the church both on Council and in committees was very meaningful to her. Janell, thank you for your many regular visits with Inger, which she looked forward to. And to Peg and Emma for keeping phone contact.

Inger's house sold in November, so the Wilkes-Barre chapter of our life is over. We hope you had a wonderful Advent and Christmas season, and pray God's blessing on you in the new year ahead.

In Christ's Love,

Roberta and Lloyd Miller (and Marti Girardin) on behalf of our whole extended family.

*February/March Worship Assistants***Communion Assistants**

2/4 Sally Ritchie/Carl Hurst
(8:30); Brooke & Libby Yeager
(11:00)

2/11 Helen Johns/Richard
Raspen (8:30); Kay Korb/Wilma
Gardner (11:00)

2/14 (Ash Wed) Sally Ritchie/Kay
Korb

2/18 Evelyn Jones/Lois Myers
(8:30); Liz Keator/John Daley
(11:00)

2/25 Helen Johns/ Sally Ritchie
(8:30); Dick Myers/Libby Yeager
(11:00)

3/4 Sally Ritchie/Carl Hurst
(8:30); John Daley & Kay Korb
(11:00)

3/11 Helen Johns/Lois Myers
(8:30); Brooke & Libby Yeager
(11:00)

3/18 Sally Ritchie/Richard
Raspen (8:30); Kay Korb/John
Daley (11:00)

3/25 Helen Johns/Evelyn Jones
(8:30); Wilma Gardner/Liz
Keator (11:00)

3/29/18. Kay Korb and Wilma
Gardner (Ash Wednesday)

Lectors 8:30

2/4/18 Richard Raspen

2/11/18 Doris Romanowski

2/18/18 Diane Martin

2/25/18 Helen Johns

3/4/18 Gary Smith

3/11/18 Diane Martin

Feb Calendar

3/18/18 Richard Raspen

3/25/18 Helen Johns

Lectors 11:00

2/4/18 Libby Yeager

2/11/18 Susan Patsko

2/18/18 Wilma Gardner

2/25/18 Fran Yekel

3/4/18 John Daley

3/11/18 Kay Korb

3/18/18 Dick Myers

3/25/18 Elizabeth Keator

Acolytes

2/4/18 Emily French/ Ginna
Valenti

2/11/18 Lauren Martin

2/18/18 Audrina Martin/Gabby
Gregoire

2/25/18 Eli Scaramastro/Gabby

Gregoire

Greeters

2/4 - Richard Raspen, Joanne
Chipeco (8:30) Debbie Dervinis
(11:00)

2/11 - Barry & Doris Romanowski
(8:30); Daren & Lisa Martin
(11:00)

2/18 - Diane Martin (8:30);
Charlene Moules (11:00)

2/25 - Helen Johns (8:30); Wilma,
Gary, Matthew Gardner (11:00)

3/4 - Gary & Donna Smith (8:30);

TBA (11:00)

3/11 - Barry & Doris Romanowski
(8:30); Brian & Fran Yekel (11:00)

3/18 - Richard Raspen, Joanne
Chipeco (8:30); Bea Bryan (11:00)

3/25 - (Palm Sunday) Jane
Hensley (8:30); Charlene Moules
(11:00)

Ushers

2/4 Cliff Jones/Richard Raspen
(8:30); Matt Buckman, Becky
Phillips, Debbie Dervinis, Chris
Cassaza (11:00)

2/11 Doris/Barry Romanowski
(8:30) Harry/Elizabeth Heck,
Brooke Fisher, Brian Yekel
(11:00)

2/18/18 Carl Hurst/Richard
Raspen (8:30); Guy French,
Charlene Moules, Darren
Martin, Linda Accurso (11:00)

2/25/18 Doris & Barry
Romanowski (8:30); Gary &
Wilma Gardner, Brian & Fran
Yekel

3/4/18 Cliff Jones/Richard
Raspen (8:30); Matt Buckman,
Becky Phillips, Debbie Dervinis,
Chris Cassaza (11:00)

3/11/18 Doris & Barry
Romanowski (8:30); Harry &
Elizabeth Heck, Brooke Fisher,
Brian Yekel (11:00)

3/18/18 Carl Hurst & Richard
Raspen (8:30); Gary & Wilma
Gardner, Brian & Fran Yekel
(11:00)

3/25/18 Doris & Barry
Romanowski (8:30); Chris
Casazza, Linda Accurso, Ellen
Rutkowski, Brooke Yeager
(11:00)